

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625

## DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: CO-100-2012- 0059 DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC69110

PROJECT NAME: Battlement Mountain Federal 14-10L

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T.12 N., R.89 W., sec. 14, NESE, Moffat County

APPLICANT: Entek GRB LLC

### **A. Describe the Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is to approve one Sundry Notice (SN) workover submitted by Entek GRB LLC to enter the existing well bore, plug back to approximately 5,355', and drill a sidetrack well bore to the Niobrara formation. The well is on privately owned land over federal minerals located in the NESE sec. 14, T.12 N., R.89 W., 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. The original application for permit to drill (APD) included drilling and surface use plans that covered mitigation of impacts to vegetation, soil, surface water, and other resources.

The well is located approximately 2.0 miles southeast of the town of Slater, CO. The workover would be planned to start during the summer of 2012 and the estimated duration would be 20 to 30 days.

There is no additional surface disturbance for the proposed action.

### **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: Little Snake Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: October 2011

- Draft RMP/EIS January 2007
- Final RMP/EIS August 2010
- Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Final EIS January 1991

**C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Colorado Public Land Health Standards, Decision Record & Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment, March 1997.

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

- 1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

The original APD was analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0119-EA. The current Proposed Action is substantially the same action as previously analyzed. The current Proposed Action is located at the site analyzed in the EA listed above.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

The ranges of alternatives analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0119-EA are appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?**

No new information regarding the project area was discovered since the original APD was approved. Yes, the analysis is still valid.

- 4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?**

Yes, the methodology and analytical approach is still valid.

- 5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?**

Yes, the direct and indirect impacts of this Proposed Action are substantially unchanged from those identified in DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0119-EA. The direct and indirect impacts would be virtually identical.

- 6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

The cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action have not changed from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document.

**7. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?**

The public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document is adequate for the current Proposed Action.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify ID team conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Title	Resource Represented	Date
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	6/19/12
Rangeland Management Specialist	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	6/15/12
Wildlife Biologist	Special Status, T&E Animal	7/10/12

**STANDARDS:** Land health standards for Ground Water Quality apply. All other standards do not apply because of private surface.

Title	Standard	Date
Geologist	Ground Water Quality	6/14/12

**Wildlife Stipulations**

- 1.) To prevent significant impacts to greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, construction and drilling activities associated with the Proposed Action should not be permitted from March 1 to June 30. This timing limitation would prevent accidental nest destruction, nest and lek abandonment and displacement into less suitable habitat.
- 2.) To prevent long term impacts associated with noise, sound producing equipment (such as compressors or pump jacks) must be equipped with a hospital grade muffler or similar device which limits sound emissions to 49 decibels or less measured 30 feet from the source. Mufflers will be pointed upward to dissipate potential vibration.
- 3.) Restrict well site visitations to portions of the day between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during the lekking season (March 1 to May 15).
- 4.) No surface disturbing activities between December 1 and April 30 in order to prevent disturbance of big game using critical winter range.
- 5.) Bald eagle nests will be avoided by ½ mile from December 15 to June 15. During years when a nest site is unoccupied by or after May 15, the timing limitation may be suspended. It may also be suspended once the young have fledged and dispersed from the nest.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of NEPA Coordinator\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Authorizing Official\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.